LESSON 5 | TUESDAY

Oral Messages

QUESTION SCRIPTURE WORD STUDY KEY POINT

LESSON FOCUS: A prophetic message receives its authority from God, whether it is first communicated orally or in writing.

I. Revelation, Inspiration, and Communication

God reveals Himself and His will.

God inspires the human messenger to receive and communicate the message.

II. Can Spoken Messages Carry Divine Authority?

Q. Can a message carry divine authority before it is ever written down?

2 Peter 1:18-21, KJV

18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God SPAKE as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

The passage emphasizes that holy people of God 'spake' as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

- Greek: anthrōpoi (ἄνθρωποι), plural of anthrōpos (ἄνθρωπος) - human beings, persons, humankind.
- In generic use it is NOT limited to males; it can refer to men and women collectively as humanity.

Q. Must a message be written to carry divine authority?

  - we have a saying: “put it in writing”

- Is the voice of God authoritative if only spoken?

III. God Speaks

God’s communication is not always first given in written form.

Exodus 20:1, KJV

1 And God spake all these words, saying,

- Exodus 20 - the commandments were SPOKEN.
- Exodus 3 - Moses’ mission was SPOKEN to him.
- Jeremiah 1 - Jeremiah’s prophetic call was SPOKEN to him.

IV. God's Spoken Word at Creation

Genesis introduces God as One who speaks.

Genesis 1:3, KJV

3 And God SAID, Let there be light: and there was light.

The spoken word is respected throughout Scripture.

V. Authority Comes From the Source

It was not the ink.

It was not the fancy paper.

The source gave the message its authority.

VI. Authoritative Messengers Without Biblical Books

- Elijah - no biblical book written by him.
- John the Baptist - no writings preserved from him.
- Nathan - no biblical book written by him.

VII. The Authority of Jesus' Spoken Word

Apart from John 8:6, where Jesus writes on the ground, Scripture gives us no writings authored by Jesus Himself.

Matthew 7:28-29, KJV

> 28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:
>
> 29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

It was HIS WORDS - not merely a written document - that carried authority.

God’s Word carries authority when spoken.

- In prophetic ministry, divine revelation precedes publication.

Writing can preserve revelation.

- But Writing does not create its divine authority.

VIII. Testing a Spoken Prophetic Message

IX. Evidence 1: Conviction by the Holy Spirit

Conviction to obey God and conviction to repent are the work of the Holy Spirit.

- Where a message calls people back to God in harmony with His revealed Word, genuine conviction is evidence of the Spirit at work.

John 16:8, KJV

> 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

The prophet speaks; the Holy Spirit convicts the heart.

X. Evidence 2: Fulfilled Prediction

Matthew 24:33, KJV

> 33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

When God has actually foretold an event, seeing what He said come to pass confirms that His word was true.

Deuteronomy 18:21, 22

And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken?

22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

XI. God Can Use Imperfect Messengers

John 11:49-52, KJV

49 And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all,

50 Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.

51 And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;

52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

God actually used Caiaphas to prophesy - his words unintentionally illustrated the gospel, even though Caiaphas was an enemy of Christ.

The human instrument may be flawed.

The message may be oral.

KEY POINT: If God is the source, His Word does not lose its authority.

God's Word always prevails.